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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):  
MARCTEC, LLC [US/US]; 1303 Evergreen Avenue,  
Effingham, IL 62401 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BONUTTI, Peter,  
M. [US/US]; 1303 Evergreen Avenue, Effingham, IL  
62401 (US). CREMENS, Matthew, J. [US/US]; 1303  
Evergreen Avenue, Effingham, IL 62401 (US). BEYERS,  
Justin, E. [US/US]; 1303 Evergreen Avenue, Effingham,  
IL 62401 (US).

(74) Agent: BIANCO, Paul, D.; Fleit, Kain, Gibbons Gutman  
Bongini & Bianco, 21355 East Dixie Highway, Suite 115,  
Miami, FL 33180 (US).

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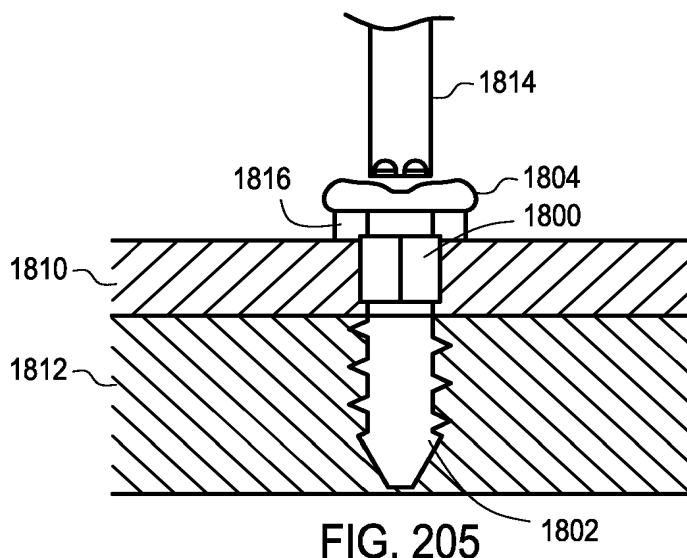
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THERMAL ENERGY



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method for stabilizing a fractured bone. The method includes positioning an elongate rod in the medullary canal of the fractured bone and forming a passageway through the cortex of the bone. The passageway extends from the exterior surface of the bone to the medullary canal of the bone. The method also includes creating a bonding region on the elongate rod. The bonding region is generally aligned with the passageway of the cortex. Furthermore, the method includes positioning a fastener in the passageway of the cortex and on the bonding region of the elongate rod and thermally bonding the fastener to the bonding region of the elongate rod while the fastener is positioned in the passageway of the cortex.